To all Magiſtrates in Chriſtendom; That do Profeſs Chriſtianity.

Concerning *Chriſtian Goſpel-Liberty* againſt Perſecution, and One *Chriſtian* Forcing, Perſecuting, Impriſoning, and ſpoiling the Goods of another, becauſe they will not be of their *Faith, Worſhip* or *Religion.*

CHRIST ſaith, *Let the Tares and the Wheat grow together till the Harveſt, which is the End of the World*; and then *Chriſt*'s Angels ſhall ſeparate the *Tares* from the *Wheat:* And are not Angels *Spirits*, and not *Men?* For *Chriſt* commands Chriſtian Men to *Love one another*, and *Love* their *Enemies*; ſo not to Perſecute them: And thoſe Enemies may be Changed, by *Repentance* and *Converſion*, from *Tares* to *Wheat*. But if Men Impriſon them, and ſpoil and deſtroy them, they do not give them Time to *Repent*: So it is clear, it is the *Angel*'s Work to burn the *Tares*, and not *Men*'s: Chriſtian Men muſt *Love one another*, and their *Enemies*. And *Chriſt* Rebuked his Diſciples, that would have had Fire to have come down from Heaven, to have deſtroyed them that would not Receive Him; and told them, He *Came not to deſtroy Mens Lives, but to ſave them*: And *Chriſt* is the *True Light*, that doth *Enlighten every one that comes into the World*; and ſaith, *Believe in the Light, that ye may become Children of the Light.* And *God pours out his Spirit upon all Fleſh*; namely, his *Sons* and *Daughters*, *Servants* and *Hand-Maids*, *Young Men* and *Old Men:* And ſo the Manifeſtation of the *Spirit of God* is given to every one to *profit withal*; ſo that in the *Spirit* they may ſerve and worſhip the Living *God* that made them. And none are to grieve, nor vex, nor quench the Motions of the *Spirit of God*; but to Walk in it, and to be Led by it, that they may be the Sons and Daughters of *God*. And the *Grace and Truth is come by Jeſus:* and this Grace of *God*, which brings Salvation, hath appeared to all Men; which will teach them to *deny Ungodlineſs*, and to *live righteouſly and ſoberly*. So all Men that do know their Salvation, and come into Favour with *God*, it is by his Grace: And this Grace and Truth is in Men and Women's Hearts, to Eſtabliſh them upon *Chriſt*, who is full of Grace and Truth. And *God* would have all Men to come to the Knowledge of the Truth, and be *ſaved:* And ſo He would not have Men to be *deſtroyed*, nor gave no ſuch Command, that Men ſhould *deſtroy* one another about *Religion*. And *Chriſt* ſent his Apoſtles and Diſciples to Preach the *Goſpel* of *Life* and *Salvation* to all Nations, and every Creature under Heaven; He did not ſay, They ſhould *impriſon*, and *ſpoil* the Goods, and *deſtroy* ſuch as would not receive their Goſpel, nor believe it; but they ſhould *ſhake off the Duſt off their Feet*; which ſhould be a ſufficient Witneſs againſt them.

And *Chriſt*, *by the Grace of God, taſted Death for all Men*; and, *Chriſt gave himſelf a Ranſom for all Men, to be teſtifyed of in due time:* So, hath not *Chriſt* in this purchaſed all, and bought all Mankind *with a Price*, namely, with his Blood, in *taſting Death for them all*, and giving *Himſelf a Ranſom for all?* And therefore, are not all Men to *Love one another*, and *Forgive one another*, in this his Goſpel-Day? For *Chriſt* ſaith, *Judge not, that ye be not Judged*; and, *With what Meaſure ye mete, it ſhall be meaſured to you again*, Matth. 7. 1, 2.

And the Chriſtians were not to judge nor deſpiſe one another about eating of Meats, nor obſerving of Dayes; but *Let every Man be fully perſwaded in his own Mind*, Rom. 14. *to the End*, Coloſ. 2. 16. And the Apoſtle *Paul* ſaith to the Church of *Chriſt*, *Not that we have Dominion over your Faith*; *but we are Helpers of your Joy: for by Faith ye ſtand*, 2 Cor. 1. 24.

So *Faith* being the Gift of *God*, which *Chriſt* is the *Author and Finiſher of*; the Apoſtles did not claim a Dominion over the *Faith*, which is the Gift of *God* in Peoples Conſciences. And the Apoſtle ſaith, *God hath dealt to every Man a Proportion of Faith*, as in *Rom.* 12. 3. and this *Faith*, the Apoſtle ſaith, *works by Love*, Gal. 5. 6, 22. And again, the Apoſtle ſaith, *Whatſoever is not of Faith, is Sin*, Rom. 14 23. And the Righteouſneſs of Faith ſaith, *The Word is in the Heart, and in the Mouth, to obey it, and to do it.*

And the *Apoſtle* ſaid, They were not to *ſpeak Evil one of another*, or Condemn one another; *for he that did, ſpoke Evil of the Law, and Condemned the Law, and did not do it*, Jam. 4. 11. for the Law of *God* commands People to *Love* one another, and not to *Perſecute* one another; yea, to Love *Enemies*. And the *Apoſtle* ſaith, *Love doth no Ill to his Neighbour*. And the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith, *Honour all Men*, &c. *and Love the Brotherhood*: So if they have Honoured all Men, then they have them all in Eſteem, as they are the Creatures of *God*, whom *Chriſt* hath died for, and gave Himſelf a Ranſom. And the *Apoſtle* ſaith to the Church of *Chriſt*, *Though we walk in the Fleſh, yet we do not war after the Fleſh*; *for the Weapons of our Warfare are not Carnal*, &c. 2 *Cor.* 10. 3, 4. For *We wreſtle not with Fleſh and Blood*, ſaith the Apoſtle, *Epheſ.* 6. 12. And in this Chapter you may ſee the Saints *Spiritual Armour*, and *Spiritual Weapons*. And ſo it is clear, the Chriſtians, in the *Apoſtles* Days, did not uſe *Carnal Weapons*, and wreſtle with Fleſh and Blood; and their Warfare was not Carnal, in Matters of Faith and Religion, in the Church of *Chriſt*, and ſerving and worſhipping of *God*.

And the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith; That the *Elders* were not to be Lords over *God's Heritage*; but that they might be Examples in good Life and Converſation, and good Doctrine; *Not by Conſtraint, for filthy Lucre*; *but willingly, of a ready Mind*, 1 Pet. 5. 1, 2.

And the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith; *Of a Truth I perceive, that God is no Reſpecter of Perſons*; *but in every Nation, he that feareth God, and worketh Righteouſneſs, is accepted with Him:* And this the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaid, when he went among the *Gentiles*, he by Nature being a *Jew*. So if *God* doth accept, in every Nation, all them that fear Him, and work Righteouſneſs; therefore, ought not all that have the Mind of *Chriſt*, and Profeſs true Chriſtianity, to be *Tender* to ſuch as *fear God*, and *work Righteouſneſs?* and are not all Chriſtians, that Love *Chriſt*, to keep the Command of *Chriſt*, to *Love one another*, and to *Love Enemies*? Then they cannot *Perſecute*, and ſpoil the Goods, and Impriſon any concerning *Church*, *Faith*, *Religion*, and the *Worſhip* of *God*.

And *God* Reproves and Judges ſuch as build up *Sion* with *Blood*; for the *Lord* ſaith, *That Sion that is built up with Blood, ſhall be Plowed up as a Field, that is turned up-ſide down*, Micah 3. 10, 12. Therefore you may ſee, ſuch as build with *Blood* and *Perſecution*, their Work doth not Proſper: For the Body, or Church of *Chriſt*, is Edified, Knitt, and United, and Built up together with the *LOVE* of *GOD*, *Epheſ.* 4. 16. *Col.* 2. 19.

G. F.

POST-SCRIPT.

Do not all Chriſtians that Profeſs Chriſtianity, ſay theſe Words in the Lord's Prayer, Forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive our Treſpaſſers? *And does not* Chriſt *ſay,* If ye forgive Men their Treſpaſſes, your Heavenly Father will alſo forgive you your Treſpaſſes; but if ye forgive not Men their Treſpaſſes, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your Treſpaſſes, *Matth.* 6. 12, 14, 15. *So ye may ſee, all Chriſtians in Chriſtendom prays to* God *conditionally, to be forgiven of* God *their Treſpaſſes againſt* Him, *as they do forgive Men their Treſpaſſes againſt them. And therefore, it behooves all Chriſtian People to be ſerious, and conſider what they do, when they* Pray *to* God, *that they do* forgive *others, as they would have* God *to* forgive *them: And if they do* Forgive, *they will not* Hate *nor* Perſecute, *but* Love.

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